



OUT ON A LIMB

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Myron Xenos, NLG

Publisher of The Money Tree Publications

ANA member since 1961, ANS, C4, EAC, NBS, JRCS, TAMS

Ken Lowe, NLG

Editor of The Money Tree Publications

ANA, ANS, C4, CSNS, EAC, NBS, JRCS, TAMS, USCCS

INTRODUCTION

Here we are back for our third issue of the year. Only one thing (other than shameless self-promotion) could have made this issue a reality - the sale of the first part of the Armand Champa library of numismatic literature conducted by Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc., November 17, 1994 held in conjunction with the Suburban Washington/Baltimore Convention.

In our last issue, I recounted my visit in June to the Champa manse to view the library in all of its glory one last time before it was to be sold ("Say it ain't true, Armand!")

In the nanosecond after the date of the sale was announced, Myron (voyager of some reknown) booked the flight and made the reservations. The airlines were having a price war, and the previous regular \$108 one-way fare was now at \$27 one way. (Thank you Southwest for saving us a ton of money. Incidentally, if you have excess time on your hands, phone Southwest Airlines just to hear their "all of our operators are busy" tape. It is one of the great, funny creations in American business history.) Unfortunately, Myron booked at the peak of the market as the ticket price eventually fell to \$19 one way. Incidentally, Greyhound charges \$39.00 one way from Cleveland to Baltimore. (The additional surcharge is because the bus gets to Washington faster than Continental.)

The weekend of the sale promised to be a grand occasion: Part I of the Champa sale, part 2 of the sale of the Katen library of numismatic literature, and part 2 of the Presidential Coin & Antique (Joe Levine) sale of the Ganter collection of medals.

Then in September I got a disturbing call from Armand. he told me that he had gone to his doctor who after running some tests had some good news and bad news for him - that he was in great health for a man who could be dead in 18 months. Armand had a problem with leakage in the mitral valve in his heart, and that he would need immediate valve replacement surgery. His doctor had assured Armand that he should be fully recovered in time for the sale in Baltimore.

A slight digression: It is well known that George Kolbe was deeply involved in negotiations with Armand to be the seller of the Champa library. Our congratulations to the Bowers organization in getting the library in no way minimizes our respect, affection, and admiration for George. "Mr. Quality" is still the heavyweight champion of numismatic literature, and will be so as long as he wishes. Frankly, the only two firms capable of presenting and selling the Champa library in the manner which it deserves, are Kolbe and Bowers. (Our solution was for us to win the Ohio Lottery and buy the Champa library outright.)

We talked regularly both to Armand and to Rick Bagg (director of auctions for Bowers and Merena) who both indicated that the sale catalogue was going to be absolutely top drawer. Charlie Davis (dealer in numismatic literature, author of AMERICAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE, and editor of THE ASYLUM) was cataloguing the sale. Rick Bagg and Cathy Dumont, the latter is Bowers and Merena photographer par excellence, had made so many trips to Armand's home in Louisville to photograph the library that Armand is declaring them as dependents on his 1994 taxes.

Armand's surgery was apparently a complete success. Soon after Armand got home, he told me that he had gotten an advance copy of the catalogue (text only), and that he was sending me a photocopy. Even though I had made several visits to Armand's library, and even though this advance copy was only the first part of the sale, I was bowled over. I picked up the catalogue at my post office box at 4:00 PM, opened it at about 4:30. The next time I looked up was about 5 hours later. Like the mosquito in the nudist colony I knew not where to begin. Charlie had done a super job of cataloguing the lots. Imagine receiving a catalogue of magnificent literature replete with a vast fount of information, wonderfully presented. Neat stuff.

Then about two weeks before the sale, I got a phone call from Sandi Burke who told me that Armand had had surgery again. It seems that his first valve had been installed improperly, and that had he not had this second surgery forthwith, the sale would have been of the library of the late Armand Champa. (Could his first surgeon have been affiliated with Continental Airlines?) Armand was home from his second heart surgery in a week, sounding better than at any time after his first surgery, and promising that he would be at the sale in Baltimore if they had to wheel him in.

The auction was going to be attended by the largest number of numismatic bibliomaniacs assembled in one place since the legendary "Invasion of Louisville" (Armand's 1988 bash when 47 of his friends visited his library during the Cincinnati ANA).

In many ways the pre-sale could be compared to the coverage of the O.J. Simpson pre-trial proceedings. Everybody had an opinion about the potential outcome of the sale, who was after what, where the competition was, and all the usual speculative punditry.

Regardless, this sale was going to be a landmark for numismatic literature. The first part of this sale of the greatest private library of American numismatic literature had the potential to be the largest grossing sale in the history of numismatic literature. The sale was being conducted by one of the glamorous names in American numismatics. The Bowers organization had gone all out in promoting this sale. In fact the sale of the numismatic properties of the Massachusetts Historical Society held the next day, which would gross about 8 times that of the literature, almost seemed to be an addenda to the Champa sale.

The days passed slowly in one of the most magnificent autumns in memory, and then it was ... SHOWTIME! The Money Tree Three: Myron, Daryl (Myron's wife and the official Money Tree navigator) and me were on our way.

Before leaving the for the sale, we had a hundred buttons made up, "I Am a Close Personal Friend of Armand Champa" with "11-17-94" on the bottom. We thought that they would be a nice memento (that's memento not momento; it's Conder token, not "Condor" token) of the occasion. Myron engraved, signed, and numbered 10 of them on the back (Armand got number 1, Myron and I took 2 & 3). We gave Armand the remaining 7. I believe that we passed out all of the remaining 90 at the sale.

THE SIEGE OF BALTIMORE

In the interest of getting to the good stuff, I will not spend as much time as I normally would as our misadventures (and a regular occurrence for me) with Continental Airlines (whcih I have come to call Air Yugo). We met David Davis (John Reich Society maven and numismatic bibliophile) at the airport who had driven in the previous night from Ypsilanti, and had spent the previous night with the Russell Logans (John Reich stalwart who gets his jollies over the travel misadventures of The Money Tree men).

We arrived in Balimer (native pronunciation) to weather equally beautiful on the east coast. Myron rents cars through Budget. Instead of a Mercury Sable (Ford Taurus clone) for \$50.00 daily, we got a Lincoln Town car for \$39.00 (Go figure). Onward to the Hotel - the Quality Inn - Inner Harbor, about a mile away from the Convention Center. David Davis who had ridden along with us pointed to a series of "No Parking"-sized signs on the outer walls of the hotel which said (approximately) "This is a high crime area. Do Not Leave Anything of Value In Your Car."

The Hotel was, shall we say, shopworn - a typical midtown motor hotel. But we would save a bunch of money ... if we survived. Only two real problems - the brown water which came out of the hot water tap; and the old-fashioned squeaky, bouncy box-spring.

After we checked into the hotel, we ventured onward to the Inner Harbor area, had a brief lunch with Dave Davis at the Hyatt, and then to the Convention Center for viewing the lots in the Champa sale. You must understand, viewing lots of literature presents problems not involved in viewing coins. Each time, one opens a Very Fine or Nearly New classic work, the potentially fragile binding gets a bit more stress. It does not take much careless handling for a Nearly New book to become a Fine.

The viewing of the lots was manned by such luminaries as Charlie Davis (sale cataloguer), Wayne Homren (Mr. Pennsylvania Numismatics), and Mike Sullivan (Mr. Bank History); and womanned by such as Cathy Dumont (photographer extraordinaire). I made a point of telling Cathy that I felt that her color halftone (consisting of small dots) photographs were the finest I have ever seen of numismatic literature. (NOTE: This is in no way meant to denigrate the excellent color halftone photos in the George Kolbe catalogues which are certainly most noteworthy, and deserving of the highest kudos.) From having been involved with our own master literature photographer (for The Money Tree sales catalogues), I know just enough to understand the many difficulties involved: lighting, light vs dark covers, different surface textures of the objects, aesthetic considerations, etc. I am certain that several of the photos would be most handsome display items in anyone's library. (Ain't it amazing what you can do with an Instamatic?)

The sale catalogue itself is in a league of its own. From the beautiful selection of the blue background of the front cover, to the magnificent color illustration of the books on the front cover, to the gold lettered title, it is one of the most handsomely presented sales catalogues of any kind which I have ever seen. I believe that this is hands down the auction catalogue of the year, and hope that it will be recognized as such by the Numismatic Literary Guild. It is a credit to the Bowers organization that such a remarkable catalogue has been prepared for a sale which will yield a relative pittance when compared to the typical Bowers auction sale.

Additionally, over 5000 Champa sale catalogues were sent out. I believe that this is at least 3500 more catalogues than had ever been distributed for any previous sale of numismatic literature. One of the reasons that we and so many others involved others in numismatic literature were so pleased was that the Bowers publicity campaign and for the attendant publicity which the sale would inevitably receive, would promote numismatic literature as it never had been before. Thus numismatic literature, its dealers and collectors will all benefit from this sale in the long run.

We had about 90 minutes to view the lots. The room was crowded. All of the viewing seats were taken. There was such a monomania involved in the lot viewing that little socializing was done. Other than Myron who was seated beside me, I really cannot tell you who was in the room. I was especially fortunate in having seen virtually the entire library during my visits to Louisville. Still, can one see the Mona Lisa or the Sistine Chapel (or Cindy Crawford) too often? I edited my notes. Made my selections: what I had to have, what I would like to have, and what I could use if the price were right.

As we finished our lot viewing, we were able to spend some time with Barry Tayman, Judge Roger Persichilli (manch and one of the few flowers in the weed-ridden Garden State), and Mark Auerbach (numismatic researcher par excellence).

We had our time carefully planned. As the 600 lot auction would begin at 6:30 PM, if we did not eat dinner at about 4:30 PM, we probably wouldn't be able to eat until after midnight. Those midnight dinners are designed to give you the dainty silhouette of a Sumo wrestler.

The "tempus fugit"ed quickly. We picked up Wayne Homren and John Burns (winner of the 1994 World Series of Numismatics with John Kraljevich, and devourer of the legendary five-pound meatball.) Dinner was in Little Italy as Schiapparrino's (a return trip for us from the 1994 ANA). The salads were so large that even John and Myron (Appetitus Magnificus) found it difficult to finish. The entrees (Three varieties of Angel Hair Pasta surrounded by marinated and grilled Scampi and Scallops for moi) were huge and wonderful.

Then, onward to the Armand Champa Library Sale, Part I.

We arrived about 15 minutes before the beginning of the sale. Armand, bless his heart (and valve) was indeed at the show. For those who do not know, prior to his surgery Armand (who is in his early seventies) looked 20 years younger than his actual age. The surgery had clearly taken its toll. After having two major heart surgeries in little more than two months, the latter one a mere two weeks earlier, he only looked 10 years younger than his age. By the time the second sale rolls around he'll be back to looking like Dorian Gray. Armand and Sandi Burke were accompanied by Armand's son Tony and his wife.

After many years of having spoken to Rick Bagg only by phone, I was finally able to meet this Bowers dynamo in person. Unfortunately because of the press of time, our visit was much too brief. We touched base with a bunch of other friends before the sale.

I counted about 70 bidders in attendance. According to Rick Bagg, there were about 306 mail and floor bidders. This is quite a large number of bidders for a sale of numismatic literature. While I know that we are probably leaving some people out (I genuinely apologize to those of you whom I have omitted), among those at the sale were (in alphabetical order): John Adams, Mark Auerbach, John Bergman, Del Bland, Remy Bourne, John Burns, Phil Carrigan, Armand Champa & Sandi Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Champa, Charles Davis, David Davis, John Donoghue, Sheridan Downey, John Eschbach, John Ford, Joe Foster, Gordon Frost, George Fuld, Alan Grace (master bookbinder), Dan Hamelberg, David Hirt, Wayne Homren, Charlie Horning, John Huffman, Don Kagin, Frank and Laurese Katen, George and Linda Kolbe, Julian Leidman, Denis Loring, Roger Persichilli, Tom Reynolds, Jeff Rock, Hugh Shull, Michael Sullivan, Steve Tanenbaum, Barry Tayman, Tony Terranova, R. Tettenhorst, Bob Vail, Chris Victor-McCawley, Bob Zavos, Myron, Daryl and yours truly.

At or near the dais for Bowers and Merena: Q.D.B., Ray Merena, Rick Bagg, Cathy Dumont, Mark Borckardt, John Babalis.

For those who were not present, the Bowers and Merena personnel were at an elevated, elongated table seating about 10 at the front of the room. A podium was in the center for the auctioneer. Facing the dais, there were two rows of approximately 12 ten foot long tables (covered with white tablecloths), each with about 6 chairs. There were some chairs scattered at the back of the room. Coffee and tea were available outside. There was supposed to be a get-together the previous evening with Armand showing individual slides (taken by Cathy Dumont) of better pieces in his library. However, his health problem necessitated cancelling that program.

At 6:30 PM sharp, Dave Bowers prefaced the actual sale by making a few remarks to the assembled multitude about the importance of the sale, giving a few comments about his longterm relationship with Armand, and indicating that some bidders who were present were non-numismatic bookdealers.

John Babalis began the auction by announcing, "It's time to RUMBLLLLLL" (He really didn't. I was just watching a rebroadcast of the Forman-Moorer fight).

Denis Loring and Del Bland had each finished running around the room, finding out who had what bidder number: Wayne Homren and Sandi Burke had taken pictures of just about everyone and everything. Constructive criticism: due to the historic nature of this sale, COIN WORLD and NUMISMATIC NEWS really should have had photographers at the sale. Was this because many of the biblio-men are not especially photogenic (or even all that presentable in public)?

The auction lots would begin at the amount of the second highest mail bid or at 60% of the estimate. Incidentally, several people asked me what I thought of the estimates. Please believe me, I certainly did not envy Charlie this unenviable task. I can guarantee you that putting estimates on this material was and is a challenge at best and a no-win situation at worst. How can you put an estimate on so many things which have no public sales records, or no recent records, or which are unique or presentation pieces? What estimate would you put on the Acropolis or on Michaelangelo's David?

I was almost at overload. This was the first major auction I have attended where I knew most of the players on both sides of the gavel, where many of them were longtime friends and clients, where I knew most of the pieces from my visits to Louisville, where I had a pretty good idea who was looking for what and for how long. Also we had sold Armand about 35 lots from our mail bid sales and by private treaty. That said, I was also trying to pay attention to the auction to bid on the stuff I wanted, needed, coveted, and cherished. (How much of a sin is it to wish that for any lot I wish, that all other interested bidders in that lot would have temporary amnesia?)

Rather than go lot by lot, as the numismatic press and various news releases will give prices for the major lots, I will give my cogent, unbiased, and authoritative observations about certain lots. Please forgive the blurring of the type. I could not control my copious tears at the lots I lost. (Incidentally, have you noticed that "lots" and "lost" are both anagrams and an analysis of my general success in the sale?)

Lot 24 was a Convention Program for the 1894 ANA convention. Story: About two years ago a local numismatic (non-bibliomaniac) collector friend, Mark Wandersleben, who specializes in Standing Liberty quarters phoned me and asked me about a piece of numismatic literature he had obtained from a stamp dealer at a flea market. It was this lot. I told him in no uncertain terms that he didn't have what he had because one does not obtain pieces like this at places like that (especially right under my own rather prominent nose). He lives five minutes away. During the ride I practiced consoling him on his delusion. Well, I was wrong; it was gorgeous.

The only other known piece was and is in the George Hatie collection. (In fact, George displayed the piece in his exhibit at the Detroit ANA this past summer.)

Mark asked me if I thought it was worth more than \$10.00. He had paid a dollar for it. Genius that I am I figured about \$100. I immediately called Armand who told me that he already had one but that he would be interested. Armand quickly called me back at home telling me that he didn't have one, and that he WANTED this one. I express mailed the list to him. Armand express mailed a check for \$375 to Mark. I had arranged an adoption between two friends.

Anyway, the lot was estimated at \$400. I was able to make one bid. After spirited bidding among 4 (I believe) people, the lot went for \$1600 plus 10%. Whew.

Then slowly, very slowly, a pattern began to emerge. A whole lot of lots were going to bidder 361 (Dan Hamelberg). Dan has many advanced collecting interests, numismatic literature prominent among them. If Dan's library of American numismatic literature is not now the finest, it certainly ranks among the very those at the very top of the census. Dan's bidding strategy appeared to be both simple and effective. He probably figured that if he didn't have it - (whatever "it" was) in his library after all of his efforts and searching, and if a whole bunch of "its" were offered here at one time, in one place - all he had to do was just keep his hand in the air until all the other bidders dropped out. The only problem with this strategy is that it requires some really deep pockets. How successful was he? According to reliable sources, Dan bought about 23% of the total dollar amount of the sale.

A pattern would soon develop that would affect the total prices realized. When it was obvious that Dan the Man was bidding on a lot and was going to keep his hand up until gangrene set in, rival bidders for a particular lot would generally drop out of the bidding at a relatively low level, subsequently heaving a deep sigh of resignation, realizing that prolonging the bidding would just prolong one's false hopes. Thus, the bidding went quickly.

Trend: Virtually all pre-1876 auction catalogues or fixed price lists were eagerly sought by the cogniscenti. Armand had accumulated the rarest of the rare. Many were the only ones known. These rare early pieces of American numismatic history (included in Attinelli) may finally be getting the widespread appreciation and respect that they deserve.

Yours truly got what I feel was a true bargain: lot 34, the 1858 first printing of the constitution of the ANS. In nice Fine condition, this is a grand and rare record of American numismatic history. It sold for \$275 on a \$400 estimate. For example, lot 88, an unknown 1871 Birch broadside was bid to \$1100 on a 400 estimate.

Many of the Bangs catalogues and addenda from lots 51 to 75 went for well-over estimate on enthusiastic floor bidding. Lot 99, which featured Volume I of Remy Bourne's FIXED PRICE LISTS & PREMIUM PAID FOR LISTS ... 1822 TO 1900 sold for \$425 (\$400 estimate) to Phil Carrigan who ached out your intrepid diarist. Only 35 (originally privately distributed) copies exist. Lot 102, the discovery piece of the (1957) Bowers Coin Company catalogue, originally sold to Armand in a Money Tree sale for \$625 went to the book (mail bidder) for \$800 attesting to the continued market strength for rare Bowersiana.

How valued are Walter Breen's comments? Lot 109, Walter Breen's annotated proofreading copy of Bowers HISTORY OF UNITED STATES COINAGE, AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE GARRETT COLLECTION, sold for \$500. Lots 115 to 124, typed and carbon copies of Breen letters and research generally sold for 250% to 300% of estimate.

Also offered for the first time was a complete set of plated, small format Chapman sales. About a half dozen each sold in the \$3000 range.

Lot 175, an original typescript of a December 13, 1924 S.H. Chapman fixed price list of 149 large cents, many ex-Beckwith, sold for \$375. In 1992, or thereabouts, I found this copy in a

brown envelope in the bottom of a box I was going to throw out. I had bought this box which was chock full of numismatic literature from Joe Lukas ("Unc Junk") for \$50.00 at a World Coin Club meeting in Parma, Ohio in 1975. Originally, there must have been 30 or 40 ANS monographs in the box, in addition to other stuff.

After enjoying this list for a while, I traded it to Armand for some other neat stuff. Incidentally, I saw the other copy of this list (which was mentioned in the annotation) at the 1992 Chicago ANA. The contents of this list were reprinted serially on the inside front covers of THE NUMISMATIST in 1925.

Lot 191, one of 35 or so special leatherette copies of Jack Collins' 1990 FIXED PRICE LIST ... OF WASHINGTONIA FROM THE ESTATE OF F.C.C. BOYD, FORMERLY THE PROPERTY OF JOHN FORD, a modern classic, sold for \$170.

Lot 233 was John Ford's November 1950 telegram to Walter Breen, indicating that Breen would have an interview with Wayte Raymond the following Monday. Highlighted as "Numismatics' Most Significant Telegram" was estimated at \$250. In many discussions that I had with Armand since June, I had told him I genuinely felt that this was arguably modern numismatics' most important document as the Ford/Breen alliance at New Netherlands and its concomitant effect upon modern American numismatic at its best sprang forth from the result of this telegram. I told Armand that I felt this lot would go into four figures and that I was going to be a strong bidder. Imagine having a 1775 letter from Ben Franklin to Tom Jefferson suggesting that the latter should go see George Washington about his thoughts on declaring independence from England. Obviously this analogy is an exaggeration, but it is a useful illustration. Well, as this lot came up for bid, yours truly (Mr. Perfect over here) was giving some bidding counsel to a comrade. I had finished giving my dubious advice just as lot 237 Frossard's NUMISMA had sold for \$4200 (previously purchased in George Kolbe's 1983 Ted Craige sale for \$1700). It wasn't until about lot 250 that I realized that I had flat-out missed the bidding on the Breen telegram. It sold for \$575 (just over double estimate, but an unmitigated steal at the price). I was both crushed and stunned.

The standard advice is that there is always some good that comes out of tragedies like this. I'm still waiting for it.

Armand and Sandi were seated right behind Myron, Daryl, and me. That Armand was able to stay around and awake for the entire sale was testament to the strength of his will and of his constitution. While it may have been partially my imagination, I believe that several times as I looked back I could see Armand's eyes get a little teary as some of the "special" lots sold. One must understand that Armand genuinely loved his library, and that selling some of these pieces was tantamount to selling a beloved pet or child. (Conversely, I could sell a substantial number of my relatives with absolute glee.)

Lot 280 was the Zabriskie set of the first 6 volumes of THE NUMISMATIST, generally considered the finest known, and featuring long and previously unrecorded quarterly editions, this discovered by Charlie Davis in his cataloguing. The set went for \$13,200 including the 10% buyer's fee. Rick Bagg subsequently told me that he was the purchaser. Rick had sold his impressive library earlier this year, deciding that his interest in collecting literature had waned. Apparently with this six-pack at \$2000 a volume, Spencer Tracy's comment about Katherine Hepburn (I believe in Pat and Mike) is applicable. When a fellow observer noted that Hepburn did not have much meat on her, Tracy responded, "Yeah, but what there is, is cherce."

After a neat and extensive grouping of rare Canadian numismatic literature, it was halftime. John Babalis had ably moved through the first 332 lots in a little more than 90 minutes. His control of the group reminded me of the late George Szell's conducting of the Cleveland Symphony. Masterful, yet seemingly effortless.

There was an immediate run on the various restrooms. Small groups were gathering rehashing the first half. However, one question kept running through the various groups, "Who was that gorgeous dark haired woman sitting in front of Loring, Bland, and Vail." Even today, that question remains unanswered. There are some things that mankind is not supposed to know. (Insert here, the first 8 bars of Bach's Toccata.)

Don Kagin, who was reading a newspaper through most of the sale, bought lot 353: of 286 Kagin (and Hollinbeck Stamp & Coin) catalogues, the most complete set known, for \$2300. Kagin also bought the 1886 plated Maris catalogue for \$4200.

Lot 353, the 1870 Maris on 1794 cents was a bargain at \$5800 (if \$5800 can be considered a bargain price for anything.) The complete set of Mason's Magazine, Hiram Deats' copy, and a genuine rarity, went for \$1900.

Perhaps the buy of the sale was lot 414, Joseph Mickley's personal diary, which sold for \$3600 to George Kolbe, who had originally sold it to Armand. Brother Hamelberg bought two rare, plated half cent works: Stack's Joseph Brobston collection and the Philip Showers collection for \$4400 and \$3800, respectively. The humongous run of Steigerwalt price lists sold to John Eshbach (two or three lots which he has needed) and the remainder to ... Dan.

Thian's Register of the Issues of Confederate States, lot 537, sold for \$10,500. Termed by John Ford, "The rarest book in American Numismatics", only five copies of this book were prepared. Armand had two: one remains to be auctioned. The Thian album, CURRENCY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA sold to Hugh Shull, Confederate currency specialist, for \$25,300 (including the 10% premium). It is now in the collection of an advanced paper money collector.

We also were the source for another rarity. Lot 554, Thomas Warner's Communion Tokens, an 1888 offprint from the AJN. This piece, which Charlie listed as the first copy he had seen, was also the first copy that Armand had seen. When we had sold Armand the piece a few years ago, he was positively exhilarated at being able to obtain such a rarity in such choice condition. Of course, The Money Tree guys didn't have a clue as to how rare it really was. We do now.

The second half of slightly over 300 lots went in about 90 minutes, ending at about 10:30 PM. The sale closed to applause by the seemingly rather jaded crowd in recognition that we had all shared in a truly special moment in the history of American numismatic literature, and possibly in the growth of American numismatics.

Several observations about the sale. Dan Hamelberg bought virtually everything he wanted. \$335,504 in numismatic literature was sold (not including the 10% buyer's premium), and within a few percentage points of the estimated prices. Also, this occasion has supplanted the Invasion of Louisville as the largest, most distinguished gathering of numismatic bibliophiles in one place at one time. It is no coincidence that in both cases the central character was Armand Champa, whom history may credit as the person most responsible for elevating numismatic literature to its current stature.

Although the hour was late, there was still adrenaline that had to be burned off. Myron, Daryl, and I went back across the Skywalk to the Sheraton's Baltimore Oriole sports bar to replay the sale. We were soon joined by Wayne Homren and John Burns, the Pennsylvania contingent. The Bowers organization was celebrating at a nearby table.

Midnight was approaching. We returned to our temporary abode at the Quality Inn. As Myron and Daryl had gone on ahead, while I was at the pop machine, a young but rather distinguished young man who had just left said machine asked me if I had been at the sale, and what my reactions were. This was my first meeting with Neil Musante (an NBS member and perceptive numismatic bibliophile). One of the great joys of these gatherings is meeting

the good people, who populate numismatic bibliomania in huge percentages. Coincidentally, Neil's room was next to mine. Too late for much conversation, we hoped to meet tomorrow for more good talk.

FRIDAY. In the morning, I again met Neil in the hallway; we exchanged greetings. Myron and Daryl had planned to go to Baltimore's (World Class) Aquarium this morning. I planned on going the bourse. There were friends to see and business to conduct. I had to see Joe Levine (Presidential Coin and Antique), a man of wit and a snappy dresser, who would be conducting the second part of the George Ganter collection of Washingtonia tomorrow night. From Joe it was over to Dave Schenkman, (longtime TAMS figure and prolific author). A little business, more good conversation. Then it was over to Charles Kirtley's table. A little business, more good conversation.

As I left Charles I ran into Jerry and Beatrice Cohen. I had first met Jerry at the Baltimore ANA, and had confused him with the California numismatist Jerry Cohen. Jerry, who had consigned to several of our auctions, had been looking for Myron and me with more material to consign. Again, one of the great joys of these conventions is meeting again with good friends.

Then it was over to Sheridan Downey's table. Sheridan had four showcases, each filled with extraordinary bust halves from four collections: Robbie Brown, Dr. Ivan Leaman, Gerald Schertz, and one other collection. Great stuff, eagerly sought by collectors, accurately graded, reasonably priced - Hmmm. Why was he having such a good show when the slab boys weren't?

Myron and I collect tokens and medals of numismatists, numismatic organizations, numismatic conventions, and the like. I sat down at some table, whose proprietor's name I could not find. I found a couple of minor pieces. As I still had about a half hour until I had to meet Wayne for lunch, and since at this table I had actually found a chair, I decided to camp out and go through his three ring binders of miscellany.

Cute stuff, nothing special. Here's a clear plastic sleeve with a label "ANS 1903, \$25.00" on it. Inside were 2 handwritten receipts by Charles Pryer, the Treasurer of the ANS; a handwritten letter from Herbert Valentine, the Librarian of the ANS; and

HELLO!!!!, What's this! The stuff that dreams are made of. Also in the sleeve was a typeset sheet of 8 by 10 inch paper folded in two, headed "Circular". Quoting the first paragraph:

The subscribers, a Committee appointed by the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society beg to announce that, in accordance with their instructions, they will issue, on the first of May, 1866, a periodical to be published thereafter on the first day of every month, and to be entitled,

The American Journal of Numismatics

AND

Bulletin of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society

An additional 29 lines of text follows.

On the back of the sheet are the typeset names of Geo. H. Perrine, J.N.T. Levick, and John Hanna, Committee, and below that the name of Frank H. Norton.

As for condition, the bottom third of both the front page and the corresponding area on the blank last page show some soiling. The paper shows some trivial discoloration from age. Still, overall this piece is Fine. By the way, there were two copies of this is the sleeve. I gave the other one to Wayne Hornen for past favors (and in hope of future considerations).

As dealers in numismatic literature and collectors of historical numismatic ephemera, I know that I have never seen this piece or heard of this piece before. I know that Myron didn't know of this piece. I also know that Armand did not have this piece or know of it. Amazingly, there was another copy with it. I later asked Del Bland, Bob Vail, Phil Carrigan, Wayne Homren, and just about everyone else who I met if any of them were familiar with the piece. No one had ever seen it. I am still enthralled with this newfound piece. I asked the dealer who sold me this where he had gotten it. He indicated that he had had it for so many years, he "can't remember any more where this piece of crap came from." Incidentally he dropped the price to \$10.00 for everything.

This piece is genuinely historic and numismatically significant. Amazing.

I was still bubbling as lunch time arrived. Wayne and I were joined by David Davis. Onward to Phillips' in the Inner Harbor (I believe a favorite spot of QDB), a brief fine minute walk. My previous visit to Phillips at the 1993 Baltimore ANA was aborted due to a recurrence of a chronic digestive system disorder (Refer to ANA Diary 1993). Phillips' specializes in seafood. The soup and sandwich lunch special featured a delicious bowl of fresh seafood chowder (absolutely delicious) and a grilled fish sandwich. As the bun was round and the fish was long and huge, I eighty-sixed the bun, and devoured a wonderful delicate piece of pollock.

A delicious, leisurely meal with good friends while discussing numismatics and numismatic literature - What joy!

Back to the show to wait for Myron to return from his trip to the Aquarium. Myron was delayed (I knew he wasn't lost because Daryl would have been navigating). We were planning on having another early dinner because of the Frank and Laureese Katen numismatic literature auction about twenty minutes away at a Marriot Courtyard Hotel. During the interim, I spent some time at Steve Tanenbaum's table. Steve always has an extensive amount of fascinating material.

Myron found me. Traffic in the Inner Harbor area had been so heavy that it had taken them nearly 90 minutes to go 4 miles. Judging by Myron's rave review of the Aquarium, I will have to make a point of getting there. Daryl was disappointed that he didn't buy a copy of a book for sale at the Aquarium Bookstore entitled, EVERYBODY POOPS.

Frank Katen's auction was of special importance for Myron, in one way moreso than was the Bowers/Champa sale. Myron collects Attinelli era (pre-1876) auction catalogues, addenda, and price lists. Unfortunately for Myron, virtually all of the pieces that Myron wanted had gone to Dan the Man, he of the continually outstretched arm. However, the Katen sale also featured an extensive number of something else that Myron collects: ANA reprints. The ANA has reprinted over 125 articles since about 1910. Although there is no official listing anywhere of all of the ANA reprints, Myron has one of the largest collections, which includes varieties and various editions. In the last few years, he had only been able to pick up a few new ones here and there. Yet in this seemingly modest (in comparison to the Champa sale) auction, there were about two dozen pieces that Myron didn't have, most which he had never even heard of.

In his own words, he was "going to do a Hamelberg for them". Translation: keep his hand up until all others drop out. Again, after all of his efforts and searching, and here was a whole bunch of reprints at one time, in one place. Years of searching and expenses could be saved here, now.

After last night at the Champa affair, I was auctioned out. There were only about a half dozen lots in the first part (this evening) of the sale that I was interested in. Myron agreed to bid on them for me. Wayne and I had decided to stay at the show for a while. Then we

would make a return trip to Schiapparrino's for another leisurely dinner: so many neat items on the menu; so little time.

Wayne and I met at Julian Leidman's table. Julian is a longstanding, well-respected figure on the circuit, a real gentleman. Wayne said that if we could wait a few minutes Charlie Davis could join us for dinner. While we were waiting, Neil Musante came by to show us his coin show find: Bolen's personal copy of a rare Bolen medal. He gave me short course on this piece. Absolutely fascinating. As Neil was available, we could make it a numismatic foursome for dinner.

Charlie did not especially want to be driving around Baltimore at night, so he suggested a return trip to the Inner Harbor, where we found Lauro's, a wonderful, and only slightly trendy, Italian restaurant. Another thoroughly wonderful meal. Superb black bean soup (difficult to make well), a specially requested spinach salad (not on the menu - fresh, imaginative, and excellent), and pasta marinara with shrimp and scallops (the same dish as I ordered last night at Schiapparrino's, prepared differently, but with its own unique taste).

Again, two hours of food, talk about all manner of numismatics and numismatic literature. A thoroughly wonderful evening. After dinner, we walked through the inside of the Inner Harbor area, which consists of a food court (the staple of many malls). A guy was making fudge from scratch on a huge table top. Had it not been for the crowd gathered around, the lateness of the hour, and my not being stark raving drunk, I would have belly-flopped right onto the chocolate covered table. (Hi! My name is Ken and I am a chocoholic.) There was a souvenir shop selling Baltimore athletic teamwear and souvenirs. While Neil was buying his wife a souvenir Baltimore Oriole/Camden Yard T-shirt, Charlie pointed to a scoreboard on the wall which had Boston on top, Baltimore on the bottom, and the number 98 beside the Baltimore name. Wayne and I couldn't figure it out. Charlie noted that Baltimore and Boston played the last game before the strike against each other, and that it was then the 98th day of the strike.

After dinner, Wayne then drove Neil and me back to our hotel. As we got out of the elevator on our floor, we immediately encountered a rather hulking man carrying a guitar case, followed by a somewhat shy 18-ish year old girl. As we turned the corner to our rooms at the end of the hallway, down the hallway across from our rooms, a large cart was in the hallway (the kind with a large bar across the top for putting things on hangers, and with a carpeted shelf bottom for suitcases, etc.). This one, however, was loaded with professional VCR's, lights, boom microphones, and other similar paraphernalia. Coming out of the room were people of various shapes, sizes, and genders: none of whom looked especially friendly, several of whom looked positively threatening as we approached them. Apparently we were too late for the audition. ("Welcome to the Ho-tel California.") Obviously, this troupe of itinerant filmmakers had merely used the room for a temporary respite from the vigors of remaking Citizen Kane. Or could it have been Debbie Does North America?

It was only about 9:30. I could use a full night's sleep, and Neil wanted to phone his wife. So we stood in the hall for a few minutes, went into my room for a few minutes, just to talk a little bit more about books and numismatics and stuff. The next thing we knew, Myron had knocked on my door, and our little chat had gone on until 11:00.

Neil went to his room. Myron wanted to know if I wanted to join Daryl and him for drinks with John Bergman. Well, I can always catch up on sleep after the millennium. So it was on to the Oriole Bar at the Sheraton ... which was closed. John was accompanied by Jim Goudge, collector of early copper, colonials and all sorts of things that require real intelligence to collect. We made our way to the Inner Harbor and ended up at Phillips' where I had lunched earlier.

We do not get to spend as much time with John as we would like. His living on the West Coast is largely to blame. John may be the most universally respected person in all of numismatic

literature. I have mentioned in earlier writings that if you look up "integrity" in your basic Funk and Wagnall's, you will probably see John's picture. Incidentally, John has an especially noteworthy business card. Made to be held vertically, it resembles a book (appropriately enough). When the card is opened, it contains instructions with a diagram on the proper way to pack and ship books.

Again, more camaraderie, good conversations, exchanging observations about the Champa sale and the first part of the Katen sale, new insights, a whole lot of laughing, and then all too quickly it was 1:30 AM. Back to the hotel for not quite enough sleep.

As the second session of the Katen sale was not going to begin until 12:30 Saturday, and since most of the downtown streets would be closed because of the Baltimore Thanksgiving Day parade making a trip back to the bourse more trouble than it would be worth, we could still all get a good night's sleep. 2:00 AM, and just as my head hit the pillow, the noise began in the hall. As we later found out, a Reggae band had taken about four rooms in our wing. Apparently, many of them were feeling no pain. They had probably just finished a "gig", and they still had the music in them, and the loudness, and language that was both blasphemous and obscene at the same time. I had never before heard the classic four-letter Anglo-Saxon expletive used as all eight parts of speech, and in the same sentence ... over ... and over ... and over ... ad nauseum ... at 2:00 AM

Apparently, they must have eventually all congregated in one place for some ganja, which had the net effect of anaesthetizing them (the good news) and stinking up the joint (the bad news). Mercifully, Morpheus finally descended.

SATURDAY

I met Neil in the hallway a few minutes before I was to meet Myron and Daryl. Neil, who was none too pleased over the hallway events of the previous night (or early morning) indicated that he was checking out of the hotel forthwith and that tonight after the show, he was going to drive at least two hours into Virginia and before looking for a nice quiet place to stay.

Apparently, we three were to be rewarded for our forbearance at the previous night's hallway interlude. The weather was absolutely beautiful - more like mid-September than mid-November - blue skies with snow white cumulus clouds, the slightest of breezes, and a temperature in the mid-50's.

It was 10:00 AM and we had two and a half hours until the auction. We took a leisurely 20 minute drive to the Marriot Courtyard in scenic Linthicum. The area consists of rolling hills replete with all manner of arboreal vegetation, and numerous corporate headquarters tastefully ensconced therein. (The reason we don't charge for LIMB is that we can't really expect anyone to pay for having to suffer through this kind of verbiage.)

Other than we three, the restaurant was essentially unoccupied. There was a breakfast buffet that featured all manner of goodies (freshly made, appetizingly displayed) that appealed to the vast range of tastes from deliciously heavy-in-cholesterol to organically fiber-ful, and the entire panorama in-between. AND we had two hours to have a restful, stress-free, tasty and tasteful repast.

Unfortunately at 11:30 we had to vacate the premises as buffet time was over. As we had an hour to kill, Myron and Daryl asked two waitresses if there were any notable sights in the area that we could see. Blank stares. Apparently, there is nothing to see in Linthicum, and nothing has ever happened here. Apparently we had found the restaurant at the end of the universe. (Apologies to Douglas Adams.)

So, it was outside to drive around and peruse the flora and fauna and ... John Bergman who had just driven up. John joined us in the Lincoln ocean liner as Myron chauffeured around the area (we saw a young lady practicing equestrian activity), and a combination of yuppie and rural neighborhoods. More good talk about the biz and some of our mutual experiences in the book-biz. Then it was back to the Marriot.

As we walked in, Remy Bourne was manning a table in the back of the room, registering new bidders. For those who do not know, after many years as owner of RAMM Communications in Minneapolis, Remy has just started a new business in numismatic literature which in January 1995 will be issuing his first fixed price list of numismatic literature, featuring articles about numismatic literature by knowledgeable writers in the field. Remy's and Avis' children, Michael and Marlene Bourne, conducted and sold numismatic literature in the early 80's. In a well-publicized, recent deal, Remy had bought the remaining inventory of the Katens. After a mere 48 years in the business, and what will be about 80 auctions, and despite being a mere stripling at 92, Frank is selling out. Ah, these kids today: no perseverance.

Although Remy and I speak regularly (to each other, in fact) by phone, this was the first time we had seen each other since the Pittsburgh ANA. After having spoken to Harrington Manville (Encyclopedia of British Numismatics, Volumes I & II) by phone only for many years, I finally got to meet him in person. What a fine gentleman. Unfortunately, and all too typically, we only had a few minutes to spend together before the auction was to begin. Then a few minutes with David and Molly Hirt, two of the best people extant. Amazingly, Molly had had surgery the day before; and here she was. Then a few words with Phil Carrigan.

John Burns came in after the auction had begun. He had been caught up in the parade traffic downtown. At the dais were Frank and Laurese Katen, John Huffman, and Gordie Frost, who was also representing other bidders and himself, in addition to his auction duties. Apparently, Gordie has multiple personalities; otherwise there was no way that he could do everything he had to, and all at the same time.

All together, there were about 25 to 30 bidders present at the sale.

A point of contrast between the Bowers and Katen auctions. By necessity, the Bowers auction was conducted in a completely businesslike fashion. The Katen sale, however, was more intimate and informal. Perhaps the difference was illustrated by the dozens of fresh baked, still warm cookies that Laurese brought in for the attendees. Incidentally, the chocolate chip cookies were definitely condition census. Somehow it would seem a bit incongruous for Ray Merena to announce at the sale that the cookies he had baked were getting cold.

Soon after the start of this session, a trend developed that would continue through the end of the sale. John Bergman was a strong buyer for everything of quality. While the items in the Katen sale didn't realize the \$500 per lot as those in the Bowers sale, there was still a ton of fascinating, rare, important, and collectible literature. This was illustrated by there being 414 mail bidders (and another 30 floor bidders) to this sale. I believe that this may be the largest number of bidders for any sale of numismatic literature in this country.

Frank had the same problem that Charlie Davis had in cataloguing the Champa library - printing pre-sale estimates for items that have rarely if ever come to the marketplace.

Some highlights. Although there are relatively few collectors of the coinage of India, the pertinent literature is elusive to rare. The 35 lots generally sold at estimate or above. The 3 Alphaeus Albert books on historical buttons all sold over estimate. The 5 lots of R.C. Bell books on British tokens sold over estimate. Lot 893, a pamphlet by Pliny Chase (unlisted in Attinelli) and estimated at \$5.00 saw spirited bidding between Bergman and ... me. I got it for \$60.00. (A rare puppy).

Myron got all of the ANA reprints which he needed. I can't imagine there being anyone who knows more than Myron about ANA reprints. Though priced modestly, many of them were quite rare, more than a few had been previously unlisted and were generally unknown.

I picked up a few Numismatic Scrapbook reprints (a specialty of mine) and offprints that I needed.

As the 85 lots of Muscalus paper money monographs came up, Myron and I took a break. Daryl was in the lobby watching the Ohio State-Michigan game (Ohio State had not beaten Meeshigan since John Cooper became coach). John Burns came out and kibbitzed a while.

I picked up a deluxe edition of Fred Schwan's 1981 book on MPC's. Only about a dozen copies were produced. The Keller volumes on Notgeld were sought by many, and at strong prices. They so rarely come to the market that Frank didn't even put estimates on them. Lot 1531, an 1891 ANS exhibit catalogue of medallic portraits ("Unbelievably nice!") estimated at \$10.00 was sought by Bergman and me. The first copy I have seen. It was obvious that John was not going to be outbid. I surrendered at about \$80.00. Bergman bought lot 1566, Eidlitz's 1928 folio-sized, rare, and sumptuous Medallic Portraits of Matthew Boulton and James Watt. Bergman and I butted heads again over lot 1730, a circa 1895 tome by Ralph Heaton and Sons, The Mint: Birmingham, estimated at \$25.00. Bergman outbutted me.

Frank called the entire auction.

The auction was finished at 3:30. Just in time for us to go back to the bourse at the Convention Center to meet (at 4:30) our good friends David and Sherry Sklow who had flown in for the Joe Levine sale that evening. There were some important ANA Convention badges that David was after. David and Sherry Sklow, who had been numismatic literature dealers in Port St. Lucie Florida, had since moved to Santa Fe. (I'm glad they made that decision: I always make mistakes when I have to type "Albuquerque".) David is now concentrating on numismatic research, specializing in A. N. A. medals, badges, and printed matter.

David and Sherry had recommended The Chart House, a seafood restaurant near the Aquarium (Hmmm). Apparently the Chart House has an ongoing promotion. If you eat in all 62 of their restaurants around the world, they will give you a free around-the-world airline ticket (I believe they have a restaurant in Indonesia and perhaps one in New Guinea). David and Sherry only have about 54 yet to go. While the service was good, the place clean and attractive, the food was only fair, proving Myron's credo that "touristy" restaurants must be avoided at all costs.

Anyway, it was back to the convention and the auction. By the way, the Baltimore Convention center, which held the 1993 ANA convention and is by all accounts modern and user-friendly, is undergoing an expansion which will at least double its size. If no conventions are forthcoming, the new facility can also be used to house ... Spain.

We all agreed to meet around 10:00 PM, after the auction at the Holiday Inn, a few blocks away, where David and Sherry were bunked. I decided to go the auction with Dave. Sherry went back to the Holiday Inn. Myron and Daryl were going back to our hotel, apparently in the belief that with all of the activity in the hotel, they would get see the actual filming of an episode of COPS.

Although the auction would begin at 7:00, the lots that Dave was interested in probably wouldn't come up until 8:30. So we stayed outside and swapped stories and upcoming plans.

NOTE: As the important bust half dollar collections are now consistently going to Sheridan Downey, and important large cent collections are going to the Chris Victor-McCawley and Bob Grellman auctions, for many years the classic sales of medals have gone to Joe Levine's, Presidential Coin and Antique Company. His catalogues are widely sought reference works.

This sale as well as both of the others auctions this weekend was well-attended. Neil Musante was seated behind us. We exchanged pertinent news and information that had occurred since we last met.

About halfway through, Joe took a badly needed break. Of all the people I have ever met, Joe truly loves his cigarettes. He returned about five minutes later, temporarily sated. However, somewhere, nearby, a cloud of second-hand smoke was lurking, waiting to strike an innocent victim. In the second part of the session, Joe was smoking (in a figurative sense). Was Joe refreshed? Energized? Psyched? Or was he just in a hurry to get back to Josephine Camel.

The auction closed at 10:00. Dave had obtained all the lots he wanted by doing a "Hamelberg". I even bought a couple of lots of medals relating to numismatics. We had to hustle to the Holiday Inn to meet Myron, Daryl, and Sherry. On the way, David and I did in fact take some precautionary maneuvers to avoid a group of young people who did not seem all that affable.

The bar in Holiday Inn was rather large, yet cozy. A variety of beverages for the troops. Good conversation among good friends. But ... as we had an early flight next morning, and because it was Continental, we said our goodbyes and headed back to Motel Hell. I needed as much sleep as possible to gird myself for an Air Yugo journey, where "anything can happen and usually does." (Didn't that phrase originate on some old TV program?)

On the way back, Myron stopped to show us Edgar Allan Poe's grave on the corner of Fayette and Green.

SUNDAY

Checkout was quick and uneventful. As was the trip to the airport. As was the check-in for the rental car. We had about an hour before Continental's first scheduled attempt at take-off. We found a restaurant at the end of a concourse that was somewhat plush and rather empty. We each ordered a light breakfast, which was quite satisfactory.

The plane was not all that crowded. The middle seat in all rows was empty. Myron and I shared adjoining aisle seats and passed sections of the Washington Post back and forth. Veddy civilized, Wot?

Okay, Myron, I'll admit it. The flight was perfect and problem-free. Gee after about 4000 miles of flights on Continental, I finally had one problem-free flight.

AFTERTHOUGHTS.

What a convention! Three different auctions. Success on the bourse floor. Good friends. Good food. Good weather. Good city. And ... we never got lost, not even once.

I am certain that as time passes, we will all gain a better perspective on the first part of the Bowers and Merena sale of the Armand Champa Library and its implications. The second part is only a few months away. I can hardly wait. And if I win the Ohio Lottery, maybe I can make Dan spend more for the lots that he will outbid everyone else for. One question remains unanswered. Who was that dark-haired woman at the back of the room?

THE CIRCULAR ANNOUNCING THE AJN

Because of both the importance and the rarity of the circular announcing the then imminent publication of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS, which was briefly discussed in the previous article, we are printing the entire text. The punctuation, capitalization, and syntax is reprinted exactly as it was originally printed.

It is printed on a sheet of 8 by 10 inch paper folded in two. Thus, of the four unnumbered pages, only pages one and two have any printing on them.

CIRCULAR .

The subscribers, a Committee appointed by the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society beg to announce that, in accordance with their instructions, they will issue, on the first of May, 1866, a periodical to be published thereafter on the first day of every month, and to be entitled,

The American Journal of Numismatics

AND

Bulletin of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society

This publication will be comprised in eight pages, octavo, printed in clear type, on the best paper, and will be devoted to the interests of Numismatists and Archaeologists. It will include reports of the transactions of Societies; Papers of interest read before them; reports of sales of Coins and Antiquities; announcements of forthcoming sales; descriptions and accounts of rare Coins, and objects of interest to Antiquarians; and articles and selections on all topics of value and importance in these and cognate branches of Science, Art and Literature.

It will also include a department of Notes and Queries, to which all interested are invited to contribute.

This Publication will be issued to subscribers, at the low rate of Three Dollars per Annum, and a limited number of advertisements, appropriate to its columns, will be received on terms to be hereafter announced.

Your attention to the objects of this enterprise is respectfully solicited, and your subscription and contributions requested.

The "American Journal of Numismatics" will be guaranteed for one year, and it is earnestly hoped that the issue of this publication, whose need is so obviously felt, and which may be considered as inaugurating a new era in scientific literature in this country, will be cordially welcomed and energetically supported by those to whom it more especially appeals, and whose interests it is intended to subserve.

In behalf of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society,
Geo. H. Perrine, J.N.T. Levick, and John Hanna, Committee

All communications and contributions should be addressed to the Editor,
FRANK H. NORTON, Librarian Brooklyn Mercantile Library, Brooklyn, N.Y.





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With the authorization of Mr. Julian, Gold Leaf Press has prepared 24 numbered, deluxe copies. 21 copies, numbers 4 to 24, are available for purchase. Copy number 1 has been reserved for Mr. Julian. Numbered copies 2 and 3 have been reserved for Myron and me. No other numbered copies have been previously reserved. Orders will be filled in the order in which they have been received unless an order is specifically placed for a higher number that has not yet been sold.

This handsome edition has a black quarter leather binding with green leatherette covers, with the titles and devices in silver. Also included is a tissue interleaved photographic plate of the obverse and reverse of the Family Rouble. This photographic plate is available only in this special edition.

500 copies of the original regular edition of RUSSIAN SILVER COINAGE 1796-1917 were produced. The list price for the regular edition was \$38.50. The book begins with a substantive 13 page historical overview written by Mr. Julian. Following the Introduction are lists of Mints and Mintmarks, and Mintmasters. Also included are notes on Coin Edges, Rarity, Proof Coinage, Die Axis and Mint Errors, Fineness, Weights, Mining Ingots, Translations, the Eagle on the reverse of the coins, Novodels, Counterfeits and Fakes, Overdates, and an authoritative 2 page bibliography.

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The appendix includes mintage figures for most of the issues from the St. Petersburg and the Warsaw mints, including mintages for the commemorative issues. Also provided is a concordance for converting the Severin catalogue numbers to the Julian numbers. Of special note is the extensive information provided on patterns.

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2. Frossard, Ed. NUMISMA. 1993 Official GOLD LEAF PRESS (The Money Tree's Publishing branch) second binding of the 1983 RAMM Communications reprint. 8vo, green leatherette, gilt. Approximately 500 pp. New. \$100.00, postpaid.

BACKGROUND ON THE REPRINTS In 1983 Remy Bourne had 100 reprint copies made from his original set. Those copies were each numbered, and GBC bound with tan printed card covers. The copies were given to Cal Wilson to sell. Wilson offered the copies for sale at \$115.00. He also offered deluxe bound copies. We believe that perhaps four or five were done in full leather, and that Wilson may have kept four, with Champa getting one. Perhaps Remy Bourne got one also. We know of 2 copies that were bound in green cloth, one owned by David Davis. The Wilson clothbound copies did not have the page perforations for the GBC binding trimmed away, and also were not particularly skillfully bound.

In 1990 we received a shipment of 35 GBC bound copies from Cal Wilson. With Remy Bourne's permission, we had 31 bound in brown cloth, re-numbered and sold them each for \$100.00 through OUT ON A LIMB, selling out in 2 weeks. The remaining four were 3/4 leather copies (Bourne, Champa, Xenos, and Lowe).

In 1993 we received another 35 copies from Cal Wilson. As before we had them hardbound, this time in green leatherette, and renumbered this grouping from 36 to 70, also selling them for \$100.00 through OUT ON A LIMB. Three copies remain.

THE WORK ITSELF. Frossard began NUMISMA after having served as the editor for the first year of Scott's COINS COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL. NUMISMA is particularly important as an authoritative record of American numismatics from the period between 1876 where Attinelli's NUMISGRAPHICS left off and for the late 1880's and early 1890's with the beginning of THE NUMISMATIST. Primarily devoted to American numismatics, the monographs also covered ancient and foreign coins and medals. A few specific articles were "The Starred Cent, 1794", a series on Sutlers' checks, "French-American Colonial Jetons", "U.S. Pattern Coins. Their Illegal Issue and Sale, and the Ineffectual Efforts of Numismatists to Check It", and "Early Days of the United States Mint."

Perhaps the liveliest American numismatic periodical ever, Frossard produced 10 volumes of NUMISMA from 1877 to 1891 consisting of 60 numbers in 59 issues. The first nine volumes were issued bi-monthly with the final volume being issued over a five year period.

COMMENTS. Possibly, its greatest value consists of the detailed accounts the contemporary numismatic scene, detailed accounts of auction sales of the time, book reviews, "Numismatic Gossip", proceedings of numismatic societies, and Frossard's uninhibited views of his contemporaries.

We believe that no more than 6 complete original sets exist. In 1983, George Kolbe sold a complete, original set in the Ted Craige sale for \$1700 plus 10% on a \$1250 estimate. This copy was just sold for \$4640 (including the 10% Buyer's premium) in the Bowers and Merena sale of the first part of the Armand Champa library.

We have found our copies to be of inestimable value and irreplaceable. Consequently, as both original sets of NUMISMA and even copies of this reprint in either format are also are virtually unobtainable, this is quite an special opportunity to acquire a copy of this classic periodical. Because of the continuing demand for this reprint, and because copies appear so infrequently appear in the marketplace, this will probably be the last opportunity you will have to obtain a copy of NUMISMA at a fixed price.

A DELUXE EDITION NEVER BEFORE OFFERED OF A REMY BOURNE WORK

3. Bourne, Remy. A SURVEY OF AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SALES AND INFORMATIONAL LITERATURE. A Survey of Sales Lists, House Publications and Promotional Literature issued by prominent American Dealers between 1910 to date. 1989. 4to, 3/4 black leather and gray marbelled boards, gilt, thick paper. 244 pages on rectos, many of which are full page illustrations. New. \$175.00, postpaid.

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A SURVEY OF AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SALES AND INFORMATIONAL LITERATURE was distributed exclusively by The Money Tree. Only 10 copies were prepared in this special presentation format. Recipients for the each of the copies, all unnumbered, were Remy Bourne, Avis Bourne, Michael Bourne, Marlene Bourne, Martin Gengerke, Armand Champa, Myron Xenos, and Ken Lowe. 2 copies were retained by The Money Tree with the intention that these copies would not be sold for 5 years after publication.

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